

Sedgley Urban District Council.



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

(A. M. McMILLAN, M.B., CH.B.)

FOR THE YEAR


 1913. 

WITH SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT BY
W. WANE, INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Printed by Order of the Sanitary Authority.



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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1913.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report for the year 1913, on the health and sanitary condition of your district. The plan adopted is the same as in previous years.

I preface this Report with an extract from the memorandum issued by the Local Government Board as to the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health: "It should be remembered that these Reports are for the information of the Local Government Board and of the County Council, as well as of the Council of the District, and that a statement of the local circumstances and a history of local sanitary questions, which may seem superfluous for the latter, may often be needed by the former bodies." This explains any recapitulation which may be found in this Report.

The requirements of the Local Government Board as regards Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health, are this year considerably increased; more detail is required and several fresh subjects are introduced.

Sedgley Urban District is bounded on the north by the Borough of Wolverhampton, and on the south by the Borough of Dudley and a small portion of Kingswinford Rural District, while Coseley Urban District and Seisdon Rural District form the boundaries on east and west respectively. Few districts excel or equal it in altitude, for it lays claim, along with two or three other districts, to possess the highest cultivated land in England. There are, however, great variations in altitude from the highest watershed, which stretches along the main road between Wolverhampton and Dudley, where at Sedgley Beacon a height of 777 feet is attained, to the Dingle at Cotwall End, where the height above sea level is 500 feet, while near Askew Bridge it is only 320 feet. The natural drainage is by small streams flowing eastward into tributaries of the Tame, and westward into tributaries of the Severn.

The area of the district is 3854 acres, and the population has shown an increase since the last census in 1911, when it was 16,529. For the year under review the population, is calculated as being 16665, giving an average of 4.3 persons per acre. The extent of the district stretches for about four miles from North to South and about the same from East to West.

The subsoil varies greatly in different parts of such a widely scattered district, but it may be roughly described as sandstone along the watershed, i.e., in Sedgley and Upper Gornal, with limestone in places, and heavy clay in other portions of the district where subsoil water is very near the surface.

The population consists chiefly of coal and limestone miners, ironworkers, bricklayers and labourers, and there are four main centres of population, viz., Sedgley, Upper Gornal, Lower Gornal, and Gornal Wood, with four or five smaller hamlets on their borders.

The natural situation is particularly favourable from a health point of view, for although we touch the verge of the Black Country on our Eastern and part of our Southern boundary, the other portions are in the midst of beautiful scenery, with the purest of air and a most bracing climate.

Mining operations still cause frequent subsidences, and that area of your district known as Hopyard Lane has been the site of many "crownings in." Baggeridge colliery may now be said to be established and provides work for a large number of the inhabitants. All the other industries are in a prosperous condition, with the exception of the building trade, and there is at present very little poverty in the district.

Vital Statistics.

Under this heading we consider the births, deaths, and details of special diseases.

Births.

In the Workhouse 18 births occurred during the year, as compared with 24, 27, 24, 31, 29, 17, 17, 27 and 19 in previous years. It is well to note here that the Workhouse, which is in this district accommodates, besides the paupers of Sedgley, those also of Dudley, Rowley, Tipton, and Coseley. We exclude the 18 births in the Workhouse from the outside parishes, and find

the total number of births registered during the year to be 472, comprising 258 males and 214 females. This is 4 more than in 1912. Taking the estimated population at 16,665 this gives an annual birth-rate of 28·3 per 1000. Table I, as required by the Local Government Board, shows the births and birth-rate in the last five years, and in compiling this and the other tables, attention has been given to the notes on the tables.

From this table it appears that the birth-rate, which had increased slightly during the three years 1904 to 1907, was in 1909 the lowest yet recorded for your district, and was 7·5 below our average for the previous ten years. Our birth-rate suddenly dropped in 1903, kept about the same for next four years, and in 1909 was a record for lowness. In 1913, the year under review, the birth-rate has risen slightly, being 28·3 per 1000 as compared with 28 last year. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1912 is 23·8.

The births exceed the deaths by 239, as compared with 239, 159, 290, 207, 257, and 238 in the six previous years.

In 1881 the census showed a population of 14,874.

„ 1891	„	„	„	14,961.
„ 1901	„	„	„	15,960.
„ 1911	„	„	„	16,529.
Estimated 1913	...	...	...	16,665.

The number of inhabited houses at Dec. 31st, 1912, was 3362, including the Workhouse, reckoned as one house, with a population of 606. This number was made up as follows :—

Number of houses in existence end of year 1912	3378
„ „ erected during year	11
„ „ demolished during year	17
20 back to back houses converted into 10 through houses	10
	3362

Excluding the Workhouse and its inmates, this gives the average number per house at 4·9.

Deaths.

The deaths registered during 1913 were 233, allotted as follows .

	Males	Females	
Deaths in Sedgley Urban District	105	108	
„ of Sedgley residents in neighbouring hospitals and asylums	11	1	} 233
„ in Workhouse (Sedgley paupers)	5	3	
„ in Workhouse (paupers from other parishes of the Union)	75	55	} 130.

The total deaths to be considered in this Report comprise 121 males and 112 females, i.e., 233 in all, as compared with 229 last year, and 277, 205, 246, 252, 273, 255, 270, 250, 238, 229 in the series of years preceding.

TABLE I.

Urban District of Sedgley.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1913 and previous years.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births			Total deaths at all ages.		Deaths of non-residents registered in the district.	Deaths of residents not registered in the district.	Deaths under One Year of Age.		Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district.	
		Un-corrected Number.	Number	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate.	Number.	*Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		10	11	12	13
1908	16100	538	509	31·6	383	23·8	131	7	75	147·3	252	15·6
1909	16150	479	453	28	381	23·6	135	12	62	136·8	246	15·2
1910	16150	519	495	30·6	329	20·3	124	12	52	105	205	12·6
1911	16529	463	436	26·2	370	22·3	117	24	69	158·2	277	16·7
1912	16529	493	468	28	349	21·1	137	17	65	138·8	229	13·9
1913	16665	490	472	28·3	351	21·0	130	12	60	127·1	233	13·9

*Rates in columns 5, 7 and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages	16529	} At Census of 1911.
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	3179
Average number of persons per house	...	...	...	5·1
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water	...	...	...	3854

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District : Dudley Union Workhouse.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District : Guest Hospital, Dudley ; General Hospital, Wolverhampton ; Women's Hospital, Wolverhampton ; County Asylum, Stafford ; Birmingham Hospitals.

Taking the population at 16,665, the death-rate amounts to 13·9 per 1000, which is the same as last year. With the exception of the year 1910, when the rate was 12·6, this is the lowest death-rate since the year 1907.

Summary of Monthly Returns.

The following table shows the mortality in the various months:—

January	...	25	deaths, including	3	zymotic.
February	...	25	" "	7	"
March	...	18	" "	3	"
April	...	23	" "	1	"
May	...	19	" "	0	"
June	...	19	" "	1	"
July	...	19	" "	0	"
August	...	15	" "	1	"
September	...	10	" "	0	"
October	...	16	" "	2	"
November	...	17	" "	3	"
December	...	27	" "	3	"
TOTALS	...	233	" "	24	"

January and February show the highest number of deaths, while September gave the lowest.

Arranging the deaths according to the age we find:—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	60	}	83
From 1 and under 5 years of age	...	...	23		
" 5	"	15	"	...	7
" 15	"	25	"	...	11
" 25	"	65	"	...	72
" 65 and upwards	"	...	"	...	60

Infantile Mortality.

The deaths of infants (i.e., under one year) numbered 60, as compared with 65 last year, and 69, 52, 63, 75, 65, 83, 86, 70, 69, 78, 78, 87, 94, 85, 89, and 83, in the series of years preceding. Our infant death-rate per thousand births is 127, which is much lower than last year when it was 138·8. For England and Wales the rate for 1912, is 13·3 per 1,000 births. There were 9 deaths of infants from pneumonia and bronchitis, as compared with 10 and 15 from the same diseases during the two previous years. From premature births and congenital defects there were 24 deaths as compared with 18 last year. Of the 60 infants who died in 1913 there were 24 under one month, and of these 24 there were 12 under one week. The excessive number of premature births is largely due to the heavy work the women do in the brick-yards. Whooping-cough accounted for 8 deaths. There were 4 deaths from diarrhoea, as compared with 1 for last year.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907,

has not yet been adopted

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

The cases of infectious diseases notified during the year number 178, as compared with 252, last year, and 173, 141, 183, 69, 88, 103, 88, 139, and 133, for the previous ten years. The average during that period of 10 years is 137; this year's figures being above the average.

From Table II it is seen that scarlet fever accounts for 42 cases, erysipelas 17, diphtheria and membranous croup 19, typhoid fever 7, and phthisis 72.

The cases were thus distributed:— 36 in Sedgley, 37 in Upper Gornal, 94 in Lower Gornal, 2 in Gospel End, and 2 in Cotwall End, and 7 in the Workhouse. The cost of notification during the year amounts to £17 2 6.

The cases notified are tabulated under various months and in Table II.

	Scarlet Fever	Ery- sipelas	Typhoid Fever	Mem. Diph- Croup theria	Puer'al Fever	Small Pox	Pulm'ry Tuber'is	Other Tuber'is Diseases	Total
January	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
February	9	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	13
March	1	3	0	0	0	0	8	3	15
April	3	2	0	0	0	0	5	2	12
May	0	3	0	0	0	0	8	1	12
June	1	0	1	1	0	0	14	2	19
July	3	1	0	2	0	0	6	1	13
August	2	0	0	3	0	0	5	2	12
September	0	0	2	3	0	0	4	0	9
October	3	2	2	5	0	0	9	2	23
November	15	2	2	2	0	0	7	3	31
December	4	2	0	1	0	0	3	3	13
TOTALS	42	17	17	19	0	0	72	20	177

Our Zymotic deaths were thus distributed :—Sedgley 5, Upper Gornal 7, Lower Gornal 12.

The seven chief zymotic diseases in this table account for 24 deaths, with a zymotic death-rate of 1·4 as compared with for England and Wales.

Our zymotic death-rate has doubled during year 1913, and is largely due to the severity of the epidemic of whooping cough in the first quarter of the year.

Table III gives mortality returns from all diseases.

Special Diseases.

Small-pox and Vaccination.

No case of small-pox has occurred during the year, and your district being a constituent authority of the South Staffordshire Joint Small-pox Hospital Board is now entitled to send small-pox cases to their hospital near Coseley.

Through the kindness of Mr. F. A. K. Smith, Vaccination Officer, and with the consent of the Dudley Board of Guardians, I am able for the ninth year to give the statistics for your district for 1912.

		1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
Successfully Vaccinated	...	446	352	353	307	343
Insusceptible of Vaccination	...	1	1	1	2	2
Had Small-Pox	...	—	—	—	—	—
Conscientious Objectors	...	48	53	107	104	107
Dead Un-vaccinated	...	39	43	31	43	40
Postponed by Medical Certificate		—	—	—	—	—
Removals	...	4	4	3	7	—
Not Accounted for	...	—	—	—	—	—
		<hr/> 538	<hr/> 453	<hr/> 495	<hr/> 463	<hr/> 492

This return for 1912 shews that all cases are accounted for by successful vaccination, by death before vaccination, by removal from district. The number of conscientious objectors is 107, compared with 104 last year.

Measles.

This disease accounts for 0 death, compared with 1 last year, and 15 the year before.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.

These diseases account for 19 notifications with 0 deaths. The supply of anti-diphtheritic serum to medical men for poor patients is still arranged for, and a few cases have been treated at the expense of the Council, but in the majority of cases the parents supplied the serum at their own expense.

Scarlet Fever.

During the year 42 cases were notified with 1 death, as compared with 173 cases notified with four deaths last year. The cases were distributed as follows:—Sedgley 4, Upper Gornal 5, and Lower Gornal 33.

Owing to lack of Hospital accommodation for this disease and the impossibility of adequate isolation in the small houses, this disease is practically endemic in your area. Disinfection of the bed-rooms is carried out in all cases as a matter of routine.

Hospital Accommodation.

In 1908 an agreement was come to with the Wolverhampton General Hospital, by which our cases of typhoid fever and diphtheria are treated in that institution. This provision has now been used by patients on several occasions with much benefit.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was very prevalent in your area during the earlier months of the year, and was the cause of 13 deaths. The habit of looking upon this disease as a trifling ailment is responsible, amongst the working classes, for its high mortality.

Erysipelas.

The cases notified number 17 with no deaths.

Puerperal Fever.

No cases have been notified for the last 4 years.

Diarrhœa.

Seven deaths occurred during the year from this disease: 4 under 1 year of age, and 3 under 5.

The deaths for the past 10 years from this cause are 3, 16, 8, 5, 7, 10, 10, 8, 5, 8.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis number 18, as compared with 12, 14, 6, 12, 11, 8, 9, 11, 9, 7 for past 10 years. Our death-rate from Phthisis is 1·08 per 1,000 which exceeds by a half that of last year when it was ·72.

72 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year, as compared with 47 last year. These were distributed as follows:—17 in Sedgley, 23 in Upper Gornal, 27 in Lower Gornal, 2 in Gospel End, 2 in Cotwall End, and 1 in the Workhouse.

There is no Sanatorium for the treatment of the disease, a few pauper cases are treated in the Workhouse, but the non-pauper cases have to rely on treatment at home. Under the National Insurance Act insured cases are treated for a short time in Sanatoria if considered curable, and then referred to their panel Doctor for treatment afterwards. This method whilst helpful, is not sufficient, as many relapsed under home conditions. Now however, after leaving the Sanatorium they attend at one or other of their Dispensaries for Tuberculin treatment, and many cases have improved so far as to be able to return to work. In addition all those cases which prove necessitous receive help in the way of milk, butter and eggs from the Insurance Committee, with the result that even the advanced cases are given a chance to recover. A few shelters have been provided for certain cases, but I found that the inclemency of the winter has drawn the patients indoors, and the shelters lie empty. As far as possible every effort is being made to better the housing conditions of the victims, and every house occupied by a tuberculous patient is periodically inspected, either by myself or your Inspector.

There are still many damp houses in your district but much has been done to help this by compelling house owners to provide suitable eaves and down spouting, 155 houses were provided with spouting during the year, as compared with 130, and 127, 11 and 9 for the past 4 years.

Other Tubercular Diseases.

20 cases of Tuberculosis, other than Pulmonary, were notified, and were situate as follows: Sedgley 8, Upper Gornal 2, Lower Gornal 9, and the Workhouse 1. These were mostly cases of glandular disease, but a few were cases of spinal and other bone lesions.

Overcrowding.

5 cases came under notice, as compared with 17 last year, and in each case it was found to be due to an inability to find a larger house.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.

This group of diseases caused 27 deaths, as compared with 41, last year, and 53, 29, 43, 64, 32, 36, 50, 43, 34, and 33, in the series of preceding years. Of these 10 were infants; 4 were between 1 and 5 years of age, and 7 were over 65.

Influenza.

This disease accounted for 7 deaths, as compared with 1 last year, and 5 the year before. An epidemic of a virulent type has been with us since the beginning of December and large numbers of people have suffered.

Inquests.

The Coroner has conducted enquiries on 18 occasions, including 8 in the Workhouse, as compared with 17, 16, 6, 13, 19, 21, 17, 14, 16, and 9, in the previous series of years.

Un-certified Deaths.

There were no un-certified deaths during the year.

Typhoid (Enteric Fever.)

This disease accounts for 3 deaths out of 7 cases notified. The number of cases notified is six more than last year, and is the highest since 1907, as the following table shows.—

		Notifications	Deaths			Notifications	Deaths
1892	...	18	1	1903	...	15	1
1893	...	30	1	1904	...	15	2
1894	...	14	2	1905	...	5	2
1895	...	15	1	1906	...	6	0
1896	...	139	20	1907	...	15	3
1897	...	49	6	1908	...	6	3
1898	...	79	6	1909	...	4	2
1899	...	38	8	1910	...	4	1
1900	...	12	3	1911	...	2	1
1901	...	33	11	1912	...	1	0
1902	...	17	3	1913	...	7	3

This table shows in the past 22 years 524 cases with 80 deaths, giving a case mortality of 15.2 per cent. The cases notified occurred 2 in Sedgley, 1 in Upper Gornal, 3 in Lower Gornal, and 1 in the Workhouse.

The recrudescence of this disease in your area may be accounted for by the long spell of dry weather, in a district which was once typhoid ridden.

Water Supply.

The public water supply for the whole district is from the mains of the South Staffordshire Water Works Co. The water is satisfactory for drinking and domestic purposes. For the purpose of providing new mains this Council has, on several occasions, guaranteed the South Staffordshire Water Works Co. the 10% on their outlay, which they insist on. Occasionally there has been some unnecessary delay in connecting the houses after the main has been laid, thus increasing the rates as well as the risk of typhoid and similar diseases.

Your Surveyor, Mr. Turton, informs me 'that the number of houses connected with the South Staffordshire water mains during the year ending December 31st, 1913, was 101 (including new houses), of which number 79 were connected under notice, and 22 by the free will of the owners.

New water mains have been laid for a distance of 310 yards, which accounts for the large increase in the number of houses provided with Tap water.

House and Town Planning Act.

House to House inspection was carried out during the year in accordance with the provisions of this act. Landlords are gradually realising that the condition of workmen's dwellings must reach a certain standard, and are becoming more willing to remedy defects. The principle defects in the houses are damp walls, floors, and insufficient light and ventilation. 43 houses were condemned as unfit for human habitation, and closing orders asked for in 33 others. An attempt is being made to close back to back houses, and 20 houses of this type have been converted into through houses.

Factories and Workshops Acts.

I append a table as required by the Home Office under this heading. In this district there are a large number of home workers, employed in tailoring in domestic workshops. In most of these cases this method is adopted to add to the income of the family. No serious infringement of the Act was discovered and no legal proceedings were found necessary.

House Accommodation.

There is still a large number of very old houses in the district, but only a few congested areas. The health conditions of these are as a rule good, as each stands in its own garden, and the cleanliness of the surroundings very fair.

TABLE III.

Urban District of Sedgley.

TOTAL DEATHS—Causes of, and Ages at Death, during the Year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths of Residents, whether in or beyond District.								Deaths whether residents or non-residents in institutions in district.
	ALL AGES	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	
ALL CAUSES } Certified ...	233	60	18	5	7	11	26	60	138
ALL CAUSES } Uncertified ...									
Enteric Fever ...	3						3		1
Small-pox ...									
Measles ...									
Scarlet Fever ...	1			1					
Whooping-cough ...	13	8	4	1					
Diphtheria and Croup ...									
Influenza ...	7					2	2	1	
Erysipelas ...									1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	18		1		2	6	8	1	12
Tuberculous Meningitis...	2	1	1						
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2		1			1			
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	12						1	8	3

[illegible]

Realising the dearth of houses in the district, this Council has under consideration a Town Planning scheme, which it is hoped will stimulate the activity of the building trade.

The supervision of new houses has now been provided for in the new bye-laws with respect to new streets and buildings. In every case the owner has to obtain a certificate of fitness from the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector before he can let the house to a tenant.

Excrement and House Refuse Removal.

The privy system is general throughout the district, the structures providing for the mixture of excreta and house refuse. The excreta, mixed with fine ashes, are carted to various farms in the district, and used for agricultural purposes. The rough coarse refuse is tipped at various suitable places in the district. This work is carried out by the Council's workmen, hired teams being employed. The frequency of removal of excreta and house refuse varies from one to six months.

There is now no house through which excreta has to be carried for the purpose of emptying the privies; all privies have been provided with a means of access other than through the houses.

The transference of this work from your Inspector to your Surveyor is a move in the right direction, as it gives him more time for his legitimate duties of inspection.

As requested by the L.G.B. I give statistics of closet accommodation for year 1913 below.

1.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of privies—fixed receptacles, 3197.

„ „ moveable „ nil.

Number of water closets—fresh water, 181.

„ waste water closets, nil.

2.—CLOSET CONVERSIONS.

Privies fixed to moveable receptacles	nil.
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„ „ fresh water W.C.'s	5.
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„ „ waste „ W.C.'s	nil.
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„ with moveable receptacles to fresh water W.C.'s,	nil.
--	------

„ „ „ „ waste „	nil.
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Milk Supply.

No milk is imported; there are no milk-shops. Milk is supplied from local dairies, or brought to customers from farms in or close to our district. There is no veterinary surgeon appointed to test the cows for tubercular disease. The County Council is the authority under the Food and Drugs Act.

During the year two cases of selling food unfit for human use were discovered. In the one case the butcher surrendered the carcase of a cow which was found to be Tuberculous, and in the other a portion of Angiomatous liver was exposed for sale. Full particulars of both cases are appended in your Inspector's report.

The cowsheds in this district leave much to be desired. In the Autumn I made an inspection of all the cowsheds in your area, they are mostly old fashioned, badly lighted, ill ventilated, and inadequately drained. A full description of them will be found in the Inspector's report. As you are aware, I pointed out to you that the existing bye-laws were of no use, as they were much too indefinite, and suggested that new bye-laws should be framed.

With every wish to improve the condition of Cowsheds we find our hands are tied, as we have no power to compel ; the words "sufficient light," "sufficient ventilation," etc , may be taken to mean anything, and even the minimum scale suggested by the local Government Board cannot be enforced. Until we are given orders instead of suggestions, all we can do is to persuade landlords to make alterations. I am glad to report that as a result of our urgency many of the owners have promised to improve the condition of their sheds.

Schools.

All the schools in the district are public elementary schools, and are managed by the County Council, who have special whole-time Medical Inspectors. The water supply is from the South Staffordshire Water Works Co., and in most cases is direct from the mains.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

There is no river in the district, and the few streams are small, and flow eastward into tributaries of the Tame, and westward into tributaries of the Severn. The sources of pollution are mainly slop and waste water from the houses.

Sewerage and Drainage.

The sewage disposal works at Turl's Hill continue to act efficiently, the effluent into the brook course being quite inoffensive.

The difficulties of providing efficient sewerage and sewage disposal works are well known. The provision of a water carriage sewage disposal system for the District is not yet possible, as the only available site for a disposal work is at present occupied by a coal pit, and the surrounding land is honeycombed with workings, and the surface continually changing as a result of "crownings in." The alternative

is a pail system, which I think has little to commend it, and could only be looked upon as a very temporary measure.

Bye-Laws.

No new Bye-laws have come into force during the year.

Summary.

The outstanding features of the year are:—Our low death-rate, which is the second lowest since 1907. *Second*, the epidemic of Whooping Cough in the earlier months of the year, which has kept our infant mortality rate up. *Thirdly*, the speeding up of the work under the Housing and Town Planning Act. The visit of the County Medical Officer has also had good effect, for whilst drawing attention to our bad points, he has not been unwilling to recognise that we are trying unitedly to improve the conditions around us.

To the Chairman and Members of this Council, and to my brother Officers, I tender my hearty thanks for courteous co-operation during the year.

Yours faithfully,

ALEX. M. McMILLAN, M.B.,Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

March 14th, 1914.

TABLE IV.

Sedgley Urban District

NETT DEATHS.

INFANTILE MORTALITY under one Year of Age, during the Year 1913.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1--2 weeks.	2--3 weeks.	3--4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1--3 months.	3--6 months.	6--9 months.	9--12 months.	Total under 1 year.
ALL CAUSES	Certified Uncertified	12	3	8	1	24	10	12	8	6	60
{	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	3	8
{	Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	Abdominal Tuberculosis (b)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
	Convulsions	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	4
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Peritonitis	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	3

TABLE IV. Continued.

Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...								3	1	1	1	6
{ Diarrhoea ...	...								1	1			2
{ Enteritis ...	...									1		1	2
Gastritis ...	...								1	1	1		3
Syphilis ...	...				1				1				2
Rickets ...	...											
Suffocation, overlying ...	...											
Injury at Birth ...	...											
Atelectasis ...	...											
{ Congenital Malformations (c) ...	...											
Premature birth ...	...	6			2	1		9					9
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus...	...	5	2		4			11	2	2			15
Other Causes ...	...									1	1	1	3
		12	3		8	1		24	10	12	8	6	60

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 444
illegitimate 28

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 55
illegitimate infants 5

Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1913.

INSPECTOR'S OFFICE.

COUNCIL HOUSE,

SEDGLEY.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Fourteenth Annual Report.

The chief matter of note in connection with my duties, is the alteration made by my having been relieved of the work connected with the removal and disposal of house refuse.

This change was effected at your November Meeting, and will enable me to give more attention to routine work more intimately connected with my duties.

Inspections.

The inspection of the district has resulted in the discovery of 547 Nuisances or Sanitary defects, particulars of which will be found in Table A, and the report supplied in connection with the Regulations made under the Housing and Town Planning Act

1954 inspections and visits have been made, and to secure the removal or abatement of the nuisances reported 177 Statutory notices have been served, 15 of which are outstanding.

570 visits of inspection have been made in connection with the work of refuse removal and disposal.

79 cases of infectious disease have been inquired into, and reports thereon furnished to your Medical Officer of Health.

Improvements effected and Nuisances abated

Table B. gives particulars of the work carried out in complying with the notices served.

510 nuisances have been abated, or sanitary amendments effected.

An improvement of considerable importance has been made in connection with 26 houses, which were without proper means of access for the removal of refuse.

Formerly all refuse removed from these dwellings, had to be conveyed through the living rooms of the houses.

This has been remedied in connection with 25 houses, by the provision of entrys, or rights of way across garden land, and in respect of the remaining house, by the provision of a water closet and a dustbin.

Considerable pressure had to be brought against most of the owners of the above houses, before the improvements were effected.

Notices to consider the making of Closing Orders were served on many owners before any steps were taken to remedy the conditions complained of.

5 cases of overcrowding were reported, against 17 last year, and 6 in the year 1911.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

The following table gives detailed information required by the Regulations made under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, showing the result of the inspections made under the above named Act.

The work of inspection, and the remedying of Structural defects coming under notice, is hampered by the dearth of houses in your district.

Houses which ought to be vacated, in order that the structural work necessary to render same fit for habitation can be more efficiently carried out, have frequently to remain tenanted whilst alterations are being executed, the tenants of these houses, complaining that they are unable to find other houses.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	92
Houses reinspected	...	...	...	...	520
„ unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	43
Representations made for closing orders	...	...	...	...	33
Closing orders made	...	...	...	...	20
Houses repaired without the making of closing orders	...	...	...	...	2
Houses repaired after closing orders were made	...	...	...	...	8
Demolition orders made	...	...	...	...	5

General Character of Defects found:—

Without a proper supply of water	...	...	...	...	6
Inadequate lighting	...	...	...	...	44
Inadequate ventilation	...	...	...	...	61
Walls or floors damp	...	...	...	...	52
Walls or floors defective	...	...	...	...	63
Walls and ceilings foul	...	...	...	...	40
Roofs defected	...	...	...	...	37
Defective or insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	...	39
Yards or outbuildings improperly paved or drained	...	...	...	...	56
Houses without proper eaves spouting	...	...	...	...	39
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	2

20 Back to Back houses have been dealt with, 16 having been made into 8 through houses, and the other 4 (end houses) have been provided with through ventilation to the bedrooms.

The situation of the houses represented as unfit for human habitation, and the action taken in regard thereto, is as follows:—

SITUATION.	HOW DEALT WITH.
13, 14 and 15 Beacon Passage ...	Closing Order followed by demolition order.
29 and 30 Vale St. ...	Closing order. Repaired. order rescinded.
31 Vale St. ...	„ „ followed by demolition order
8 Club Row. ...	„ „ Repaired, order rescinded.
18 and 19 Dudley Road ...	„ „ „ „ „
7 Highland Road ...	„ „ House demolished
10 and 13 do ...	Adjourned. Houses repaired
19 and 20 Humphrey Street ...	Closing order. Repaired, order rescinded
3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 Victoria Terrace ...	Adjourned.
10 The Orchard, Kent Street...	Closing order.
48 and 49 Clarence Street ...	„ „ Repaired, order rescinded.
9, 10 and 12 Gate Street ...	Adjourned.
14, 15, and 21 „	Closing order.
19 Summit Place ...	do.
61a Gospel End Street	do.

With regard to the houses closed during 1912, the following have been repaired, and the closing orders thereon have been revoked, viz. :—

18a Gospel End Street.
20 and 21 Hopyard Lane.
4 East Street.

Plans were approved by your building Committee for the reconstruction of 13 Ettymore Road and 73 Himley Road.

The work has been completed at 13 Ettymore Road and the house re-occupied.

The following 17 houses have been demolished :—

7, 13, 14, and 15, Beacon Passage
2, 3, 4, 5, 35, 36, 39, 40, and 84 Gospel End Street.
6 East Street.
17 West Street.
7 Highland Road.
Old Bush Inn Vicar Street.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 30 persons registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders: with two exceptions all are cowkeepers.

4 cowsheds are not in use, and 3 others have been discontinued permanently as cowsheds: one has been demolished owing to mining subsidences: one has been converted into a workshop, and the other discontinued as unfit.

During the year I made a detailed inspection of the whole of the Cowsheds, and later accompanied your Medical Officer of Health in a further inspection.

A Special Report thereon was submitted to your Health Committee in December last, based on the standard of requirements recommended by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, in their leaflet on cowshed construction.

Summarised the report shows that 283 dairy cows are kept on 26 registered premises, housed in 48 separate sheds or buildings.

The principle defects are, inadequate lighting 27, inadequate ventilation 24, defective or improperly drained floors 31, insufficient space back of line of stalls.

Several of the sheds are quite unfit for use as cowsheds, the structures being so arranged that it does not appear to be practicable to render them reasonably fit.

There are also several sheds which owing to their narrowness and the insufficient space at the back of the line of stalls, renders it difficult to secure a desirable state of cleanliness therein.

Considerably more than half the cows are housed on farms, the majority of which, owing to the general arrangement of their buildings, cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

In these cases the farm buildings are built round a space, the enclosure forming a fold yard. The drainage from the various buildings, together with surface water and manure is deposited in the enclosed space, and a considerable area in proximity to the cowsheds is almost continually in a foul state.

33 notices have been served on owners and occupiers of cowsheds requiring them to provide adequate lighting, ventilation, paving, and drainage.

A copy of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries leaflets on Cowshed Construction, and Cleanliness in the dairy, have been forwarded to every cowkeeper in your district.

Slaughterhouses.

The slaughterhouse register contains 11 slaughterhouses, all of which are in use. The whole are licenced annually. There has been one change of occupation, the licence of Slaughterhouse No. 12 having been transferred to a new tenant.

93 visits of inspection have been made. The occupier of slaughterhouse No. 3 surrendered the carcase of a cow suffering from Tuberculosis which was afterwards destroyed at the Dudley Corporation Destructor.

2lbs. of cow's liver purchased from a butcher's shop in Sedgley was also submitted to me for inspection, owing to the abnormal appearance of same, I immediately visited the shop, the whole of the liver had been sold, and the occupier of the premises, who has no slaughterhouse in your district, informed me that the liver in question was taken from an animal for which he paid £16 and that the animal was dressed in the public slaughterhouse of an adjoining district.

I submitted the liver to your Medical Officer of Health, and later to a pathologist for examination. The report on same stated that the liver was effected with Angioma, there was no evidence of tuberculosis.

The council issued a warning to the Vendor that any further offence would be followed by a prosecution.

Bakehouses.

There are 18 bakehouses on the register, 17 of which are in use.

2 new bakehouses have been built and put in use during the year, one of which takes the place of an unsuitable bakehouse demolished to make room for the new structure.

53 visits of inspection have been made.

No underground bakehouses exist in your district.

Prosecutions.

For failing to comply with a notice to remedy insanitary conditions arising from the premises being damp and foul, also defective out-buildings and drainage, the owner of 13 Gate Street was summoned before the Stipendiary's Court. The work was put in hand on the date fixed for hearing, and after an adjournment of 14 days, the notice having been complied with, the case was withdrawn on payments of costs £1 7s 6d.

Conclusion.

I beg to thank the Council for their continued confidence and support, and also wish to record my thanks for the valuable support received from the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. WANE,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE A.

PREMISES.				No. of Inspections	No. of Nuisances reported.
Dwelling-houses, foul condition	...	...	...	209	60
„ structural defects...	...	...	...	516	168
„ overcrowding	...	...	...	14	5
„ unfit for habitation	...	...	...	186	43
Defective paving and surface channels	...	...	...	140	70
„ eaves and down spouting...	...	...	...	92	46
Cowsheds	...	...	...	184	5
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	83	1
Workshops	...	...	...	74	3
„ (Homeworkers)	...	...	...	43	—
Defective privies and ashpits	...	...	...	148	63
Accumulations of offensive matter	...	...	...	38	14
Defective drains	...	...	...	81	31
Choked or foul drains	...	...	...	6	2
Animals improperly kept...	...	...	...	22	7
Other nuisances	...	...	...	118	59
TOTALS				1954	547

TABLE B.

CHARACTER OF WORK DONE OR NUISANCE ABATED.				No. of Nuisances abated.
Houses cleansed and Limewashed	...	...	...	60
„ dilapidated roofs repaired	...	...	...	41
„ walls repaired, floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	69
„ inadequate lighting and ventilation improved	...	...	...	58
„ overcrowding abated	...	...	...	2
„ unfit for habitation, closed	...	...	...	20
„ „ „ repaired	...	...	...	10
„ „ „ demolished	...	...	...	17
Yard paving relaid or repaired	...	...	...	54
Eaves and down spouting provided...	...	...	...	46
Cowsheds,—Contravention of Regulations	...	...	...	5
Slaughterhouses,—Contravention of Bye-laws	...	...	...	1
Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	3
Privies and ashpits rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	46
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	14
Drains cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	20
„ relaid or new drains provided	...	...	...	11
Animals improperly kept, removed...	...	...	...	7
Other nuisances	...	...	...	26
TOTALS				510

TABLE C.

Return supplied to the County Medical Officer of Health.

	Number of		Abatement Notices.		Nuisances abat'd after notice by	
	Inspections and Observations made	Defects found.	Informal by Inspector.	Formal by Authority.	Inspector.	Authority.
Dwelling-houses and Schools :—						
Foul Conditions	209	60	31	21	30	21
Structural Defects	516	168	42	38	64	89
Over-crowding	14	5	3	1	1	1
Unfit for habitation	186	43	1	24	1	24
 Cowsheds	184	24	2	33	2	
Bakehouses	53	2	2		2	
Slaughter-houses	93	1	1		1	
Ashpits and Privies	148	63	14	22	19	27
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	38	14	8	6	8	6
 House Drainage :—						
Defective Traps }	87	33	10	14	10	21
No disconnection }						
Other faults ... }						
Animals improperly kept	22	7	3	4	3	4
Other nuisances	118	29		14		26
 Totals ..	1668	449	117	177	141	219

UNWHOLESOME FOOD :—

Number of Seizures* ... ..	...	...	2
Condemned by Magistrate ... ..	...	...	1
Prosecutions for exposing for sale	...	...	—
Convictions ,, ,,	...	...	—

*Surrendered.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	54
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TABLE D.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

1—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector or Inspector of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries) ...			
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries) ...	74	3	—
WORKPLACES (other than Outworkers' premises .. included in part 3 of this report)	43	—	—
TOTAL ...	117	3	—

2—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	F'nd	Rem'd	Ref'r'd to H.m. In'p'tor	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness 	3	3	—	—

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year. 1	No. 2.	Class. 1.	No. 2.
Bakehouses	18	Action taken in matters referred by H. M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Act but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5).	Notified by H. M. Inspector... 1
Dressmakers	3		
Tailors	3		
Stone Quarries	6		
Other Businesses	16		
TOTAL ...	46	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	—

